



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending May 3, 2015

*Issued weekly on the internet, April - November
by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS*

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Released May 4, 2015

Good week for field work: New England averaged 5.0 days suitable for field work last week.

New England temperatures were warming up last week, continuing to help dry out the wet fields. Average weekly temperatures ranged from five degrees below normal to five degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.0 to 0.34 inches in the region. With the warmer weather, farmers were out spreading manure in fields that were dry enough. Spring tillage was also underway in the region in the drier fields. Some farmers were beginning to plant peas, potatoes, and early season vegetables. Strawberries, grapes, raspberries, and blueberries were also being planted. Orchardists were almost done pruning, and were applying fertilizers and spraying crops with protective fungicides. Garden centers and greenhouse operations were preparing for the upcoming Mother's Day weekend sales.

Crop Progress as of May 3, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: GREEN TIP	89
APPLES: PINK	6
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	54
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	94
PEACHES: PINK	12
PEARS: GREEN TIP	89
SPRING TILLAGE	20
STRAWBERRIES: PLANTED	10

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 3, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	1	21	47	31
SUBSOIL	0	10	46	44

Crop Conditions as of May 3, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	1	33	31	33	2

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit www.usda.gov/oce/weather and click on "[Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin](#)."

May 3, 2015 New England Weekly Weather Summary

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2015					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Maine	Augusta_State_A	65	36	49	-1	0.23	4	4.36	+0.19	17	12	-6	174
	Bangor_Intl_Air	62	29	47	-2	0.31	4	2.39	-1.26	20	6	-7	141
	Bethel	70	32	47	-2	0.08	1	3.88	-0.30	12	2	-11	119
	Bridgton	70	32	48	+2	0.00	0	3.42	-0.94	12	2	-6	136
	Caribou_Municip	70	33	46	+1	0.17	2	2.21	-0.73	15	7	+7	87
	Dover-Foxcroft	69	29	46	+2	0.24	4	2.59	-1.42	19	1	+1	96
	Durham	61	34	49	+1	0.09	1	3.43	-1.46	18	2	-8	140
	East_Surry	56	28	45	-4	0.13	3	3.57	-1.02	19	0	-8	102
	Eustis	69	27	44	+2	0.17	2	2.12	-1.36	15	0	0	52
	Frenchville	66	33	44	+2	0.14	2	2.02	-1.00	15	2	+2	66
	Harmony	69	35	50	+4	0.12	3	3.31	-0.77	18	6	-1	119
	Houlton	68	27	44	-1	0.30	3	2.64	-0.50	15	4	+4	84
	Livermore_Falls	70	32	48	+3	0.04	2	3.48	-1.01	14	1	-1	115
	Machias	52	24	42	-5	0.18	3	3.05	-1.96	14	0	-2	60
	Millinocket_Wtr	69	31	45	-2	0.34	3	2.90	-1.00	16	0	-4	67
	Moosehead	68	29	46	+4	0.18	2	2.24	-1.53	15	1	+1	77
	Portland_ME	63	38	50	+3	0.08	1	4.98	+0.33	12	31	+21	221
	Rangeley_2NW	66	29	43	0	0.05	1	2.61	-0.87	16	0	0	35
	Sanford	65	33	48	-3	0.00	0	3.31	-1.61	7	7	-17	157
	Topsfield_2	68	30	44	-2	0.28	4	3.39	-0.47	16	1	-1	94
	Turner	68	35	49	-2	0.06	1	4.08	-0.42	16	9	-14	155
	Wesley_2W	67	27	45	-1	0.30	2	5.42	+1.29	12	1	-1	113
	West_Rockport	55	32	46	-2	0.17	2	4.01	-1.18	16	1	-4	113
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	71	33	47	-1	0.20	2	2.79	-0.76	15	2	-6	108
	Bradford_2	71	30	49	-3	0.02	1	2.59	-1.73	10	7	-23	138
	Colebrook	69	29	43	-3	0.15	2	3.21	+0.26	18	0	-4	56
	Concord	73	32	51	+2	0.03	1	2.26	-1.11	11	45	+19	234
	East_Milford	69	33	51	-1	0.08	1	2.82	-1.46	9	29	-5	217
	Epping	66	31	49	-2	0.02	1	3.12	-1.47	12	20	-7	188
	Errol_AP	68	29	44	+1	0.15	2	3.01	-0.09	17	0	0	67
	Fitzwilliam	70	35	50	+2	0.06	1	2.50	-1.59	11	18	+3	195
	Greenville	68	31	49	0	0.02	1	2.45	-1.64	6	12	-3	170
	Hancock	69	28	49	-1	0.01	1	2.76	-1.55	15	19	0	159
	Jefferson	69	28	46	-3	0.27	2	3.56	+0.36	20	2	-14	107
	Keene_AG	75	31	49	0	0.00	0	1.77	-1.89	10	10	-12	168
	Lakeport_2	74	33	52	+3	0.00	0	2.73	-1.05	8	26	+4	191
	Lebanon	74	33	51	+2	0.00	0	1.74	-1.44	10	37	+18	213
	North_Conway	71	31	48	-2	0.01	1	3.82	-0.69	13	4	-10	130
	Tamworth_4	71	30	47	+1	0.04	2	3.31	-1.35	13	2	-1	112
	Wolfeburro	71	37	51	+2	0.00	0	2.94	-0.84	11	21	-1	186
Vermont	Bennington_AP	74	33	51	+4	0.00	0	2.04	-1.93	12	45	+30	241
	Burlington_Intl	76	35	52	+2	0.12	2	2.64	-0.54	13	55	+26	247
	Corinth	70	34	48	-1	0.00	0	2.32	-0.52	15	4	-12	92
	Island_Pond	72	29	45	0	0.21	2	3.51	+0.38	17	1	-1	71
	Johnson_2N	71	35	47	+2	0.02	1	2.11	-1.48	16	6	0	124
	Marlboro_Raws	71	35	49	+4	0.00	0	2.93	-0.07	8	17	+11	169
	Montpelier_AP	70	35	47	-2	0.06	2	2.06	-0.78	16	16	0	136
	Newport_AG	71	35	47	-4	0.17	2	3.09	-0.17	14	6	-20	105

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2015					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Rochester	72	34	48	+1	0.00	0	2.93	-1.17	12	8	-5	143
	Rutland_AG	74	30	48	-4	0.04	1	2.26	-0.84	15	7	-31	144
	Springfield_VT	72	35	50	+2	0.00	0	2.24	-2.11	9	28	+14	200
	South_Lincoln	71	30	45	-1	0.17	2	1.24	-2.82	8	6	+4	101
	Sutton	68	35	46	+2	0.07	2	3.75	+0.62	20	4	+2	92
	Walden	66	31	42	-4	0.12	2	3.28	+0.15	17	1	-1	44
	Woodstock	73	33	49	+1	0.00	0	2.95	-0.87	12	14	-1	157
Massachusetts	Amherst	74	34	52	+1	0.00	0	2.25	-1.97	10	36	+2	236
	Barre_Falls_Dam	69	35	49	+1	0.01	1	1.93	-2.33	13	13	0	175
	Bedford_Hanscom	63	32	50	-2	0.13	1	1.83	-2.55	9	46	+5	258
	Beverly_Ag	64	36	51	-3	0.27	3	1.90	-2.66	12	48	+7	269
	Birch_Hill_Dam	70	33	50	+2	0.00	0	1.79	-2.30	10	16	+3	180
	Boston_Logan_In	64	39	50	-4	0.17	1	2.27	-1.66	10	69	+17	297
	Chatham_AP	55	35	46	-4	0.07	2	1.52	-2.80	13	2	-12	180
	Chicopee_Westov	75	33	52	+2	0.00	0	2.77	-1.45	11	63	+29	276
	Edgartown	60	38	49	-2	0.10	1	1.35	-3.27	13	10	-16	240
	East_Brimfield_	67	36	50	-1	0.00	0	3.54	-1.01	13	26	+2	213
	Fitchburg	70	33	53	+2	0.09	1	2.30	-2.46	11	84	+47	312
	Greenfield	73	35	51	-1	0.00	0	2.10	-2.12	11	28	-6	210
	Hyannis_AP	56	37	48	-3	0.05	1	1.19	-2.90	11	7	-11	215
	Maynard	74	32	51	-3	0.11	1	2.52	-1.86	12	48	+7	254
	New_Bedford	64	38	50	-3	0.08	2	1.94	-2.81	13	41	+2	271
	Newburyport	64	35	49	-4	0.08	1	3.20	-1.53	12	27	-8	205
	North_Adams_Har	74	32	51	+4	0.00	0	2.01	-2.79	12	41	+29	233
	Norwood	66	32	51	-2	0.17	1	1.47	-3.03	10	66	+16	285
	Pittsfield	70	37	51	+2	0.00	0	2.90	-1.40	13	36	+13	221
	Plymouth	63	36	48	-4	0.10	1	1.93	-3.05	13	31	-2	231
	Taunton_4NW	67	37	51	-2	0.25	2	2.61	-1.93	16	46	+6	266
	Westfield_Barne	75	37	54	+5	0.00	0	3.23	-1.40	12	88	+64	315
	West_Otis	71	37	52	+3	0.00	0	2.63	-2.35	10	30	+14	227
	Worcester	66	38	50	0	0.10	2	2.97	-1.37	14	51	+24	266
	Worthington	70	33	49	0	0.00	0	2.51	-1.91	15	7	-8	158
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	64	37	50	-2	0.10	1	1.60	-3.06	13	31	+1	241
	Providence	66	37	53	-1	0.06	1	2.51	-2.03	15	80	+23	322
	Westerly-Wester	70	37	50	-2	0.01	1	1.42	-3.20	11	26	-10	230
	Woonsocket	68	35	51	-2	0.10	1	3.50	-1.31	11	53	+12	275
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	76	43	55	+2	0.00	0	2.16	-2.22	11	85	+27	333
	Danbury_AP	75	37	53	0	0.00	0	1.17	-3.55	8	73	+15	297
	Hartford_Bradle	75	37	55	+2	0.00	0	3.41	-0.87	13	112	+41	348
	Meriden-Meriden	74	37	54	+3	0.00	0	1.77	-3.34	9	72	+29	296
	Norfolk	69	36	50	+2	0.00	0	3.52	-1.46	14	18	+2	176
	Norwich	71	37	52	-2	0.00	0	1.40	-3.60	12	61	+1	292
	Staffordville	68	34	48	-4	0.00	0	3.24	-1.57	12	7	-25	170
	Thomaston_Dam	73	36	52	+2	0.01	1	3.28	-1.43	15	38	+8	242
	West_Thompson_L	69	33	50	-2	0.03	2	3.40	-1.40	15	21	-9	217
	Willimantic	70	37	53	+3	0.00	0	3.51	-1.30	13	69	+37	294

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

CONNECTICUT

ALL CT COUNTIES, Jude Boucher

No rain in two weeks. Soils have gone from wet to dry quickly. Some sweet corn up. It was planted on April 1st, with snow at both ends of the field. Plastic mulch being installed, fields tilled or ripped, crops planted.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinert

Plowing, harrowing and spreading manure. Soil temperatures in the low 40s. Spring is moving slowly.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell

Dry conditions, spreading manure, planting corn, pruning vineyards, and starting to plant vegetable crops in the field. Greenhouses have plants ready for Mother's Day sales.

MAINE

ANDROSCOGGIN/OXFORD/SAGADAHOC, Marcia L. Hall

The apple trees are silver to green tip and producers are finishing up pruning and preparing orchards for spray. Manure has begun to be spread in fields where soil is dry enough to get equipment onto. Some tilling of soils has begun on river bottom land. Need sunny, warm days to get the soils dried out and animals into the pastures.

AROOSTOOK, Larry James

After a week and a half of cloudy skies, the sun and warmer temperatures have finally arrived. The ground has dried well the last few days. A few operations may get on the ground by week's end. Pastures are still brown and soft, so it will be a few weeks before cattle are put out to pasture.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow

Lack of rain has made it easy for farmers to get things done. We could use some rain. Farmers are busy preparing the soil, spraying apples, and planting peas and potatoes.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond

The conditions are excellent for spring tillage. We will need some rain soon though. Manure spreading is going full bore. It is time to plant the peas and early sweet corn here.

PISCATAQUIS, Donna Coffin

A dry week. Manure was being spread in the well-drained fields. Plowing and tillage was being done in the well-drained fields as well. Still some wet areas to be avoided. Fences were being repaired in preparation for turning out livestock. Heavy frost a few mornings. The peepers are peeping! The forsythia and daffodils are blooming!

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus

Milder weather conditions this week include typical spring weather: cool in the morning, warming to 40s or 50s, then cool evenings. Some light rain during the week, but not enough to halt field work on high ground. Manure spreading continues on high

ground; low-lying fields are still too wet to work. Pastures are continually turning green and producers are anxious to get to work after a long, cold winter.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look

The snow has finally melted enough so we can get into the fields. Today we had to leave a field because snow was still on the shady side at a depth of a foot or more.

MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, James M. Newland

There were finally some warm days this past week that helped to start raising the soil temperature. Much of the soil moisture has evaporated, leaving the soil trending towards dry and light. Producers have been planting sweet corn under plastic. Cabbage and potatoes were being planted throughout the valley. Fiddleheads are being harvested and the first asparagus harvest is days away.

HAMPSHIRE/HAMPDEN, Heather Baylis

Finally a week of normal temperatures has helped farmers catch up. The first of the asparagus is ready to hit the markets. Reports of this coming week with higher than normal temperatures will go a long way in raising the soil temperatures. Farmers are happy to finally be out and working the fields.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville

Cranberry buds have begun to break, but remain fairly tight. Warm weather over the weekend should result in some bud expansion.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/MERRIMACK/HILLSBOROUGH, Donna Juneau

Relatively normal temperatures prevailed this week which resulted in fields finally drying out in our northernmost counties of Belknap and Merrimack. Producers were spreading manure and preparing fields for planting. Field work continues in our southernmost county of Hillsborough. Farm stands were opening up these last two weekends. The locations of summer farmers' markets are being announced in local publications.

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Ground was starting to dry out. Many fields are tilled and waiting for soil and air temps to rise. Peas and some hardy crops planted outside. Growers still picking greens from high tunnels. Pruning of fruit trees done and blueberries mostly done. Most greenhouse operations now open to the public. Pastures and hay fields not yet out of dormancy; fields have not been ready for grazing.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Cooler weather most of the week with no rain, and most fields are pretty well dried out. Grass is greening up nicely, and farms are spreading manure on corn ground. Planting may begin this week. Planting has begun in earnest on vegetable operations, especially

with early crops. Orchards doing well, but buds are developing slowly.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Warming weather, but many fields still with too cool/wet soils for planting; some with lighter soil worked up, but don't know that any have planted corn yet. Manure spreading moving along where possible to do so.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

A week of warm weather had the fields greening up more, but still only a handful of early fields have been plowed. Fruit trees and berries are beginning to break dormancy.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Daytime temperatures were much warmer toward the end of the week. The last half of the week saw temperatures in the 70s. Topsoil layers are now frost-free. However, some contractors have reported that they were still hitting frost at depths of more than three feet in some locations. In spite of this, the topsoil temperatures are warming and continue to improve. Farms are spreading manure on a daily basis. Until soil temperatures increase a little more, spring planting still has a few more days to wait. The grass is beginning to grow in the valley, and pastures are showing signs of recovery from a long, cold winter. There are some indicators of winter kill around the area. Farmers will need to be on watch for this.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Plum were starting to bloom. Apple and pear are at ½ inch green to tight cluster in the Hollis area. Orchardists are fertilizing orchards and are applying protective fungicide sprays on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Finishing up pruning apples and blueberries, and starting to prune peach trees. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hay fields; spreading manure, plowing, disking and fertilizing corn fields to be planted. Vegetables: Continue early season vegetable (peas, lettuce, greens, cole crops) planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes; transplanting zucchini and summer squash into row tunnels and floating row cover. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking, laying plastic, and getting ready to plant fields. Harvesting first asparagus, but it is slow growing.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Warmer and drier week allowed field work. Pruning apples, blueberries and brambles. Fertilizing crops. Transplanting tomatoes in high tunnels. Garden centers and greenhouse operations getting ready for Mother's day weekend.

SULLIVAN, Kelly Webb

Temperatures finally warmed up near the end of the week and allowed fields to dry out. In some cases, conditions are too dry. Some brush fires were reported in the county over the weekend. Farmers are getting started on field work behind schedule compared to recent years - spreading manure, fertilizing, and tilling. Pastures/fields are greening up, but not much growth yet. The upcoming week of warm weather should help bring soil temperatures up and move things along.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule

I think spring is here. Good week last week. Strawberry plants were planted, I would say about 90% of them. Many started planting potatoes Thursday, Friday and Saturday; if the weather stays good we will finish planting potatoes in the next two weeks. A lot of sweet corn planted this week, but no silage corn yet. A lot of fields have been seeded down to hay; it's a little bit late and may have to fight weeds this spring because it was too cold to plant earlier. This coming week will be a great week with all week being in the 70s and only one day showing the possibility of rain. I foresee a lot of planting of potatoes and corn and much tilling going on this week with the good weather.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

I hear that spring will arrive on Sunday, May 3rd.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Starting spring tillage. Continue spreading solid manure from stacks and some liquid manure on drier fields. Mostly too wet still. No-till planting clovers and grasses into hay fields. Pasture slow to grow so far. The winter rye cover crops look much better and green.

CHITTENDEN, Terence Bradshaw

Dry conditions have prevented any significant apple scab infection periods in Vermont, but ascospores are maturing and apple buds developing rapidly, so next rainfall and wetting event will likely trigger an infection period. Growers should be running irrigation during dry weather, especially on newly planted trees.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

Field activity is picking up in Franklin County. Much manure being applied and some tillage. Grass is greening up very nicely and grazing cattle beginning to show up around the country side. Buds are very much at green tip, with some of the early blooming varieties even showing some leaving. Not much for seeds in the ground; I did notice some of the sweet corn patches in with film cover.